

1. A method of testing the authenticity of a document provided with at least one optico-diffractively effective metallized security indicium, comprising the steps of:
 - storing a signal representative of the security indicium of a genuine document;
 - moving a document along a predetermined path;
 - applying a voltage to the security indicium by capacitive coupling;
 - measuring the voltage in the security indicium and deriving a signal representative of the measured voltage; and
 - comparing the measured voltage signal against the stored signal.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of altering the movement of the document in response to a difference between the stored signal and the measured voltage signal.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of discontinuous metallization segments.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of metallization segments of different thicknesses.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the optico-diffractively effective security indicium is a hologram comprising a plurality of discontinuous metallization segments with interspersed elements responsive to electromagnetic radiation of a predetermined frequency range.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is ultra violet light and the responsive elements comprise a dye fluorescing when

irradiated by ultra violet light.

7. The method of claim 5, wherein the responsive elements comprise a light absorbing substance.

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